

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) A computing device operable by a user to interact with network sites over a network interface, the device comprising:

- a processor;

- a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with a plurality of network sites over said network interface; and

- a storage device coupled to said processor and storing browser software adapted to control said processor to download and display information from said plurality of network sites, characteristic information associated with each of a plurality of network sites, preference information including a ranking of preferred ones of said plurality of network sites as measured by said characteristic information for automatically configuring user preferences indicated by said browser software, and instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

 - detect network activity of said user when said user operates said browser software to interact with said plurality of network sites;

 - update said characteristic information based on said detected network activity, said characteristic information including information identifying the duration and frequency of visits to each of said plurality of network sites;

 - update said preference information based on said updated characteristic information to automatically reconfigure user preferences indicated by said browser software; and

 - repeatedly detect and update as said user operates said computing device such that said user preferences indicated by said browser software automatically reflect usage patterns of said user.

21. (Previously presented) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said characteristic information further includes information identifying at least one of:

- (i) a network site with the greatest frequency of visits by said computing device;
- (ii) a network site having the greatest time spent by said computing device;
- (iii) a network site having the greatest number of downloads by said computing device;
- (iv) a network site for which said computing device selected the largest window size; and
- (v) a network site having the greatest number of keystroke interaction by said computing device.

22. (Previously presented) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said preference information further stores at least one alternative network site for at least one of said ranked network sites.

23. (Previously presented) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said network activity is detected by monitoring at least one of: (i) a time spent at a network site; (ii) a frequency of communications with a network site; (iii) a number of downloads from a network site; (iv) a window size while in communication with a network site; (v) a number of keystrokes while in communication with a network site.

24. (Previously presented) A method for operating a computing device to allow a user to interact with network sites over a network interface, the method comprising:

- initiating operation of browser software on said computing device;
- automatically configuring said browser software using a set of preference information stored at said computing device, said preference information including a ranking of preferred ones of said plurality of network sites, said ranking previously established based on characteristic information stored at said computing device and automatically measured based on previous network activity of said user;
- operating said browser software to interact with a plurality of network sites;

detecting at said computing device interactions with said plurality of network sites;

updating said characteristic information stored at said computing device based on said detected interactions, said characteristic information including information identifying the duration and frequency of visits to each of said plurality of network sites; and

updating said preference information based on said updated characteristic information to automatically reconfigure user preferences as indicated by said browser software.

25. (Previously presented) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said instructions are provided as a plug-in or add-on to said browser software.

26. (Previously presented) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said instructions are integrated with said browser software.